UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PULLMAN, WASHINGTON

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF OKANOGAN GERMPLASM SASKATOON SERVICEBERRY

Amelanchier alnifolia (Nutt.) Nutt. ex M. Roemer from Okanogan, Washington

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture announces the release of a selected ecotype of SASKATOON SERVICEBERRY *(Amelanchier alnifolia).*

Species:	*Amelanchier alnifolia*
Release Name:	Okanogan Germplasm
Common Name:	Saskatoon serviceberry
Plant Symbol:	AMALA
Accession Numbers:	9033672, T33672

Origin: Native plants near Okanogan, Okanogan County, Washington, at 1200 feet, Major Land Resource Area B-8.

Description: Okanogan Germplasm is a deciduous shrub up to 10 feet in height and *6* feet in width. It produces numerous stems and leaves. Plants are rhizomatous and have an extensive root system with a massive root crown with horizontal and vertical rhizomes. Plants tend to be taller and grow faster than others evaluated in the planting.

Okanogan Germplasm represents five plants surviving of the six original plants.

It was selected from a Pullman Plant Materials Center study of 222 Saskatoon servicebemy accessions, 169 of which were planted in the field. The study was evaluated from 1983 - 1995. Okanogan Germplasm was rated excellent in vigor, stem and leaf abundance and average in fruit production. It was a taller plant than the planting average and other selections.

Areas of Adaptation: Saskatoon serviceberry is naturally found on slopes adjacent to riparian areas and on uplands on dry rocky slopes in precipitation zones with a minimum of 12-14 inches of mean annual precipitation. It occurs in lowlands in interior valleys to near timberline. Its native range is from southern Alaska to California; east to Alberta, the Dakotas and south to New Mexico and Arizona. It occurs with white alder, Douglas hawthorn, chokecherry, mountain ash and elderberry in riparian zones throughout its distribution area. It occurs with many other plant associations, depending on the geographic region of concern.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The primary potential use is in rehabilitation efforts in riparian areas in the Pacific Northwest. Other uses occur in reclamation projects, diversity enhancement, wildlife and shelterbelt plantings. It is an excellent plant for erosion control on streambanks and other sites with adequate moisture. It is an attractive plant for landscaping as a screen or hedge. Conservation practices that may use serviceberry plantings include Channel Vegetation, Conservation Cover, Critical Area Planting, Riparian Forest Buffer and Streambank and Shoreline Protection.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): An Environmental Evaluation worksheet was completed according to the NRCS National Plant Materials Manual, Exhibit 540-31 and attached to the release documentation.

Maintenance of Okanogan Germplasm Serviceberry: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, Pullman, Washington will maintain the genetic material and make material available on a limited basis to nurseries and researchers.

Leonard Jordan

6/7/00
Date

LEONARD JORDAN
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Spokane, Washington

Bob Graham

6/12/00
Date

ROBERT J. GRAHAM
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Portland, **Oregon**

Richard Sims

6/15/00
Date

RICHARD W. SIMS
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Boise, Idaho

for Richard L. White

8/7/00
Date

Diane Gelburd
Deputy Chief for Science and **Technology**
Natural Resources Conservation Service
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